



## Revitalizing San Diego Adds New Jobs, Park

**I**t is a dream that will soon become reality, bringing with it economic investment, good-paying jobs and a revitalized public park that will be another diamond for downtown San Diego. And, don't overlook the 700 new parking spaces in an area where adequate parking is an acute shortage.

Kicked off by approval from the Board of Supervisors, plans are under way to develop a public-private partnership with the goal of constructing a 968-space parking garage on Kettner Boulevard between Ce-

dar and Beech streets. Included in the project will be 268 luxury apartments and 15,000 square feet of retail space.

The project will allow the county to move parking from its current site next to the Administration Building; the site could then be turned into a waterfront public park fronting San Diego Bay.

The county owns the property where the new parking garage will be constructed. Under terms of the agreement with developer Clark Realty, the Arlington, Va., company will build the \$35 million project, then turn the parking structure over to the county.

County employees will get to park in up to 750 of the spots. Revenue generated by the other spots, which will be available during evenings and on weekends, will be shared by the developer and the county.

By bringing parking to the Little Italy neighborhood of downtown San Diego, the region will be more inviting for tourists and locals who enjoy the bayfront, its restaurants and nightclubs. In turn, the area will grow in prosperity, helping fund programs that benefit all of San Diego County.

### No Lie - Polygraph Test Is Now Cost Recovered

**E**very time the county Probation Department conducts a polygraph test to ensure that a convicted sex offender is telling the truth, it costs taxpayers between \$275 and \$400.

No longer will they be bearing this cost as the Board of Supervisors, on a motion by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, revised county policies to recapture these costs, which will now be the responsibility of those being tested.



### SURF'S UP IN CARDIFF...

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price joins sculptor Matthew Antichevich for the well-attended Sunday unveiling of a life-size bronze surfer sculpture, "Magic Carpet Ride" in Cardiff-by-the-Sea. The Cardiff-By-The-Sea Botanical Society, affiliated with the Cardiff 101 Chamber of Commerce, raised funds to commission the sculpture. Supervisor Slater-Price awarded a \$5,000 Community Projects grant.

## Great News - County Gets Bond Upgrade

**F**or the second time this year, the County of San Diego has earned an upgrade to its credit rating because of good budget management.

The nationally recognized firm of Standard & Poor's raised the county's underlying credit to AA+ from AA. Additionally, Standard & Poor's upgraded its rating to AA from AA- on the county's outstanding long-term debt, including pension obligation bonds and certificates of participation, which are used to fund capital projects and are paid back in a timely manner.

"This good news is further validation that we, as the Board of Supervisors, take seriously your role as watchdogs of the public treasury," said Supervisor Pam Slater-Price. "We take this responsibility seriously."

Combined with the June upgrade to AA+ by Fitch Ratings, the County of San Diego has now received ratings upgrades from two of the three national municipal credit rating agencies. (Only two other counties out of the 58 in California are ranked as high by Standard & Poor's as the County of San Diego. No other county is

rated higher by Standard & Poor's.)

**According to Standard & Poor's analysis, the county's financial position "demonstrated another year of improvement" and "indicates very strong operating results."**

The improved credit ratings are a signal to investors and the public that the County of San Diego continues to be a responsible steward of taxpayer funds.

Improved credit ratings also help in saving tax dollars by reducing the costs of issuing future debt.

# AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT

## News of Note

### County Issues Food Recall

**C**ounty health officials have issued a voluntary recall of canned chili and meat products that may contain the *Clostridium botulinum*, resulting in a rare but serious paralytic illness.

The recall of items sold by the Castleberry Food Co. began in mid-July and has been expanded to include more than 25 brand names, including ones sold at Costco and other local markets. Consumers can call a special hotline - (619) 338-2283 - for additional information. Castleberry also has a hotline at (888) 203-8446.

A list of the suspected products can be found at [www.castleberrys.com/news\\_-\\_productrecall.asp](http://www.castleberrys.com/news_-_productrecall.asp).

### Protect Your Plants

The highly destructive Diaprepes root weevil is back in San Diego County, with quarantine zones established in Carmel Valley, Encinitas, University City, Fairbanks Ranch, La Jolla and Solana Beach, the latest area to be struck and where spraying continues through November. The weevil attacks both agricultural and landscape plants. To report an incident or to gather information, call the county's pest hotline at (800) 491-1899 or visit the website at [www.scaawm.org](http://www.scaawm.org).



### Foster Website Is A Winner

"Fostering Change" is more than a website - it represents a renewed effort to help foster youth transition into society. The site, designed by former foster youth ([www.fosteringchange.org](http://www.fosteringchange.org)), contains resources for education, housing, employment, transportation, health, crisis management and more.

The website was developed by a partnership that included the county Health and Human Services Agency and two foundations - Child Abuse Prevention and Futures. The county offers a Living Skills Program for foster youth. Information is



Artistic Director David Ellenstein accepts a county proclamation from Supervisor Pam Slater-Price marking the 25th anniversary of North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach.

### REP MARKS A BIRTHDAY

**I**t has been 25 years since the first production took the stage at North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach. The theater has gained a much-deserved reputation for its first-class, cutting-edge productions. Check out its latest, "Rashomon," that dramatizes ancient Japanese fables of wisdom, running through Aug. 12.



Lisa Ross joins Supervisor Slater-Price for a special ceremony honoring North Coast Repertory Theatre on June 25.

## SD Real Estate Market Stays Solid Amid National Concerns

**T**here are two sides to the real estate market in San Diego County: The flagging housing prices that have forced sellers into a stand-off with buyers; and the burgeoning commercial property sector that continues to show gains.

The hardest hit in valuation are buyers who entered the market during the 2005-06 booms.

Sadly for them, the county Assessor's Office reduced the value of more than 11,500 residential properties this year. Owners hurt the most by the shaky market live in condominium conversions, new condominium projects and new subdivisions.

Yet overall, San Diego County's real estate market continues to impress even as the national average declines during this correction period for an over-inflated market.

What does that mean for local governments and the services residents depend on, such as libraries, parks and road repair?

San Diego County Assessor Greg Smith recently released a surprising report. It showed the assessed value of all taxable property in San Diego County

**increased** by \$33.5 billion over the previous year to \$391.4 billion - a 9.36 percent change. That increase includes home parcels, businesses, boats, mobile homes and aircraft.

The county's assessed value benefits 387 different taxing jurisdictions.

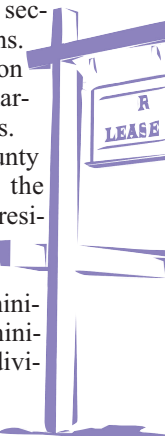
This year, the county will collect \$4.4 billion in property taxes, which gets divided as such:

- 13.2 percent for the County.
- 12.4 percent for cities.
- 3.6 percent for special districts.
- 43.3 percent for schools.

The largest taxpayer was San Diego Gas & Electric Co. at \$38 million.

For San Diego County's part, about 20 percent of its budget is property and other taxes. In June, my colleagues and I on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors passed a balanced budget of \$4.68 billion for the 2007-08 fiscal year, which includes an emergency fund for times of economic uncertainty of \$760 million.

New construction and sales in the residential sector slowed, and nationally new constructions have dropped by more than 13 percent. But the commercial and industrial market in San Diego County continued to be strong, and carry the day for municipalities.





# Grants Promote Community, Build Sense Of Togetherness

**H**onoring veterans, celebrating the granddaddy of American holidays, and encouraging residents to learn about and better appreciate the wonders of the Third District's vital lagoons all share one thing in common - they are recipients of Community Project grants awarded by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price.

The following grants were approved by the Board of Supervisors in late July:

- \$2,500 to **Paradise Community Services**, which will be used to purchase personalized name plaques for the Military Tribute and Wall of Courage exhibit in Escondido.

Teacher Angie Hazel started the exhibit as a special education project for her students at Oak Hill Elementary School. Opening this fall, it will pay tribute to "the past, present and future members of our armed forces." Three lifesize bronze statues will be permanently installed at Grape Day Park, and the individual plaques will be installed on the "Wall of Courage."

- \$2,000 to the **Del Mar Historical Society** to offset costs of staging its "Putting on the Ritz" celebration saluting the history of downtown Del Mar.

The fund-raiser, which took place July 21, highlighted the great American jazz era

that was dominated by "juke joints, speakeasies and elegant supper clubs."

- \$7,365 to the **Scripps Ranch Civic Association** to offset costs of staging its annual Fourth of July parade and festivities.

Organizers estimate this year's event - themed "Scripps Surfin' Safari" - recorded an all-time high for attendance. Much of the credit goes to committee co-chairs Bill Crooks and Jim Ball. And Bob Dingeman recorded his 31st consecutive year announcing the parade!

- \$10,000 to the **San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy** for its "Nature on Wheels" and "Nature Connections" education programs.

The San Elijo Lagoon Preserve consists of about 1,000 acres of habitat that is home to several endangered species. The lagoon splits Encinitas and Solana Beach.

The preserve has 7 miles of hiking trails, including a newly opened track that is fully accessible per American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Supervisor Slater-Price has led the charge to build a new, two-story visitor's center at the lagoon that incorporates the latest in "green" construction materials and standards. Construction on the new 4,230-square-foot, \$4.75 million center is slated to begin later this year and be completed by late 2008.



### WORTHY ACHIEVEMENT

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price presents a proclamation to Barbara Harper (right) at the Saturday, July 28, grand opening of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito, Barbara Harper Branch. The branch was named after Harper, chair of the "Share the Dream" committee who is also the first woman to chair the club's board of directors.

## County Funds Alert System

**S**an Diego County has seen its share of disasters. To alert residents as soon as possible that a potentially dangerous situation is occurring, the county Board of Supervisors approved funding for an Emergency Alert System that automatically notifies residents via phone calls, e-mail and text messaging.

"This notification system will save lives," says Supervisor Pam Slater-Price. "Our region is vulnerable to earthquake, wild fire or flooding. We now have the technology to immediately alert residents to the danger, ensuring lives are saved."

### 'Work Safe' A Winner

**A**re-emphasis on safety - dubbed "Walk Safe, Stay Healthy" - has generated unexpected returns for taxpayers. Now in its fourth year, the county saved as anticipated \$14 million in claims and 300,000 hours of productivity this past fiscal year.

Before the program went into effect in 2003, the county was experiencing a minimum 12 percent increase in worker's compensation payments, costing taxpayers more than \$2 million annually. The program is tailored to the demands of various work environments involving 17,000 employees.



### HAWAIIAN MEMORIES...

A celebration of the life of community activist Jack Orr took place on a Friday night in late July at the Grand Seasons Resort in Carlsbad. Supervisors Pam Slater-Price and Bill Horn (left) reflect on Mr. Orr's achievements prior to presenting a county proclamation to his mother, Carol Stranger, 90. Jack Orr was a well-known political activist who also was leader of the successful effort to incorporate Encinitas. He later served on the city's Parks Commission. Supervisor Slater-Price shared her memories of Jack with his mother (right), a resident of Yorba Linda.

## AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT



Volunteers display a bronze replica of "Blackie," a giant sea bass killed in the "No Take Zone" of the La Jolla Ecological Reserve while Supervisor Pam Slater-Price describes "The Map" project.

## Introducing LJ's 'The Map'

To emphasize the ecological importance of the nearshore environment, more than 50 bronze sculptures of life-size fish and invertebrates are being embedded just offshore of La Jolla and Scripps Canyon.

"The Map" raises awareness of the biological significance of the indigenous species that make the underwater canyon their home. The area is part of the La Jolla Ecological Reserve where hunting and fishing is illegal.

"This is a great community project that identifies the merits of the reserve and its importance as an eco-system," explained Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, who awarded "The Map" project a \$50,000 community projects grant. Total cost of the project is estimated between \$150,000 and \$175,000.

"The Map" was first proposed by Friends of Kellogg Park and is supported by the La Jolla Shores Association, Birch Aquarium and Scripps Institution of Oceanography. A formal groundbreaking is planned for mid-September with completion expected by November 2008.



### GOOD GOVERNMENT...

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price addresses members of COGG - the Conservative Order of Good Government based in Rancho Bernardo. She updated the audience on such topics as law enforcement, fire protection and accountability at the County of San Diego.

COGG promotes the preservation of responsible government and a free American economy. Next year will be COGG's 30th anniversary. Meetings are held monthly at the Rancho Bernardo Inn.

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